

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to review all joint ventures in oilfield sector; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

MPLADS

707. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Members of Parliament in the Tenth Lok Sabha could not utilise the sanctioned amount of Rs.1.0 crore per year for meeting the expenditure on various developmental schemes in his/her constituency;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Members of Parliament of Eleventh Lok Sabha would be permitted to utilise the unspent grant of previous year, in addition to the new allocation to the MPs of 11th Lok Sabha; and

(d) if not, reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) Some Members of Parliament of the Xth Lok Sabha could not fully utilise the sanctioned amount due to reasons, such as coming into force of Model Code of Conduct for State/general elections, uneven flow of recommendations from the MPs, etc.

(c) and (d) This matter will be acted upon in the light of the Revision of guidelines.

Gas Exploration

708. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the specific steps taken to increase the oil and gas exploration in the country during 1996;

(b) the total expenditure incurred during the above period for this purpose State-wise; and

(c) the details of achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Draft Ninth Five Year Plan

709. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state

(a) whether the draft of the Ninth Five Year Plan has been prepared; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Approach Paper to the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) has been approved by the National Development Council in its meeting held on 16.1.1997. Based on this Approach Paper, preparation of the Ninth Five Year Plan is presently underway. Ministry of Planning has requested that the Approach Paper be tabled in Parliament.

[English]

Bombay High

710. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of study conducted by Kleinword Benson Research on Indian Oil and Gas;

(b) Whether the ONGC has been held responsible for the low level of oil reserve and the disastrous performance of the Bombay off-shore areas;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the Research Body ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) (a) to (d) The Kleinwort Benson report is a study by a private agency on the overall energy sector in the country including the oil and gas sector. The report has made some recommendations on energy policy. While noting the past success of ONGC, the report points out the low reserve accretion by ONGC and also that its performance on Bombay High field was below expectations.

ONGC has taken a number of measures for reserve growth through acquisition of 3-D surveys, improved recovery methods, opening up new areas like deep water exploration etc. Number of remedial measures have also been taken in the case of Bombay High off-shore like workover jobs, infill drilling and re-development of the field etc. The Government has already set up a Committee of experts to look into the causes of decline in production and suggest measures for restoring the reservoir health, to

identify the technological gaps for proper exploitation of the Western off-shore fields etc.

Setting up of Power Grid/Super Thermal Power Station

711. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA:
SHRI THOMAS HANSDA:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposed to set up some new power projects in Bihar like Karnataka with foreign capital investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to set up a Super Thermal Power Station at Tandva;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also contemplating to set up power grids in tribal areas of the State; and

(f) if so, the time by which these are likely to be set-up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal to set up North Karanpura Super Thermal Power project (2x500 MW) at Tandva in Hazaribagh district of Bihar by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) was considered. However, the proposal could not be processed for investment approval because of rejection of the site due to its close proximity to reserved and protected forests, objections raised by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) in having this project in the DVC area, non-resolution of the issue of construction of a dam by Government of Bihar for supply of make-up water to the project, inadequate demand and lack of transmission and distribution system in the region etc.

(e) and (f) At present Powergrid Corporation of India has two 400 KV transmission lines viz., Durgapur-Jamshedpur and Jamshedpur-Rourkela in the Jharkhand area of Bihar. There are also two sub-stations of 400 KV viz one at Jamshedpur and other at Rourkela. No further lines are contemplated for setting up at present.

Below Poverty Line

712. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 39.28 percent rural people of Western Rajasthan are living below poverty line;

(b) if so, whether the Government intends to formulate some crash programme especially for rural poor to improve their living conditions;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to declare "Dhanis" and "Hamlets" of desert area as Revenue villages to enable them to reap the benefits of development which is presently restricted to Revenue villages only; and

(d) if not, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) According to the estimates of NSSO household consumer expenditure survey for 1987-88, the rural poverty ratio for Rajasthan is 26%. No separate estimate has been made for Western Rajasthan.

(b) The main focus of IRDP is giving employment to the target group of people who are below poverty line. All the blocks of the country including Western Rajasthan are covered under IRDP. It is an on-going programme.

(c) and (d) Under programmes of Rural Water Supply and Rural Sanitation, facilities are provided to "Dhanis" and "Hamlets" as per the Annual Action Plan prepared by the State Governments.

In order to enable the inhabitants of "Dhanis" and "Hamlets" of remote areas to benefit under IRDP, it is stated in the guidelines that the priority list of poor families should be prepared by BDOs giving special emphasis to outlying hamlets and nomadic families.

Development of Backward Districts

713. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared any Programme for the development of backward districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Planning and development of an area is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Planning Commission provides assistance to the States, including Uttar Pradesh, in overcoming the problems of backwardness through Special Area Programmes in addition to providing weightage for backwardness in the modified Gadgil formula approved by NDC in 1991 for normal Central Assistance for State Government's Plan.

Employment to Flood Affected Persons

714. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: